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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Developing Services
Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services
Sectors in Developing Countries: SHIPPING
Second session

[SHIPPING]

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PORTS

1. The Group of Experts will examine factors which can contribute to efficient management and sustainable development of ports and related port services in order to foster competitive maritime transport services and to strengthen capacities for trade.

2. In carrying out its task, the Group of Experts will:

(a) Focus on two main elements of the new work programme, namely:

- Port organization, including issues relating to privatization, commercialization, deregulation and existing legislation;

- Port management, including issues relating to human resources development, strategic planning, marketing, sustainable development and investment requirements;

(b) Supplement the expertise available in the secretariat through the presentation by selected ports of the experience gained in the fields of port organization and port management;

(c) Assess, while having due regard to competition between ports, the potentialities for increased regional cooperation between ports, in the fields of port organization and management;

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(d) Review the relevant publications produced by the secretariat at the request of the 1990 Intergovernmental Group of Experts on ports by:

(i) examining their distribution and assessing the interest they generated, the applicability of their relevant recommendations and what additional information is needed for the development of competitive ports and related port services, particularly those located in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(ii) providing inputs from the port industry on significant gaps in existing information on port organization and management available from international organizations, port associations, seminars, conferences, and publications to ascertain whether there is a need to strengthen the dissemination of the available information;

(iii) providing professional opinion on specific subjects of the approved work programme on which the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors (Shipping) should accord priority;

(e) Review the work carried out by the secretariat in the field of port management training and technical cooperation, assess its impact on the development of competitive ports and related port services and, in this context, assess the needs that are not met through the various types of training available from bilateral and multilateral sources in order to ascertain potential areas for future UNCTAD activities in this field; and

(f) Prepare a report on the above items for submission to the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors (Shipping) at its second session.